

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-05 A-01 SS-15 FBO-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9907

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 217

FOR UNDERSECRETARY EAGLEBURGER, ASSISTANT SECRETARY
ROGERS, AND SECURITY FROM AMBASSADOR

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC, ABLD, JM

SUBJECT: AMEMBASSY KINGSTON SECURITY PROBLEMS AND PROPOSALS

REFS: (A) 75 KINGSTON 3789 (B) 75 KINGSTON 4947 (C) KINGSTON
96 (D) KINGSTON 97 (E) KINGSTON 98 (F) KINGSTON 99 (G) KINGSTON
105 (H) KINGSTON 110 (I) KINGSTON 125 (J) KINGSTON 150
(K) KINGSTON 151 (L) KINGSTON 164 (M) KINGSTON 196

1. REFTEL A RESPONDED TO UNDER SECRETARY EAGLEBURGER'S REQUEST
FOR ASSESSMENT OF THREATS TO EMBASSY AND EMBASSY STAFF
AND FOR PROPOSALS TO COUNTER THESE THREATS. REFTEL B DESCRIBED
THE EMERGING WELL-ORCHESTRATED CAMPAING HERE AGAINST "CIA-
INSPIRED PLOTS AGAINST JAMAICAN GOVERNMENT AND SOCIALISTS FORCES."
REMAINING REFTELS DESCRIBE LAST WEEK'S SECURITY CRISIS IN KINGSTON--
INCLUDING ATTACK BY DEMONSTRATORS ON CONSULATE OFFICE AND THE
SUBSEQUENT MURDER OF TWO JAMAICAN CONSTABLES GUARDING THAT
OFFICE. THIS MESSAGE UPDATES REFTEL A IN LIGHT OF RECENT EVENTS
AND SOLITITS DEPARTMENT'S URGENT AND FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION OF
FORTHCOMING PROPOSAL FOR ACQUISITION OF A NEW CHANCERY.

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2. OUR SECURITY ASSESSMENT IN SEPTEMBER 1975 (REFTEL A) MADE

CLEAR THAT, AT THAT TIME, PRIMARY THREATS WERE: (A) DOMESTIC POLITICAL VIOLENCE AND TERRORISM WHICH MIGHT SOONER OR LATER BE TARGETED AGAINST U.S. MISSION AND STAFF; AND, (B) ALWAYS PRESENT THREAT OF INDISCRIMINATE VIOLENT CRIME WHICH AFFECTS ALL MISSION PERSONNEL AND OPERATIONS. IT WAS NOTED PHYSICAL SEPARATION OF THIS MISSION INTO THREE SEPARATE OFFICES IN WIDELY SCATTERED PARTS OF TOWN, PLUS THE LOCATION OF THE EMBASSY MAIN CHANCERY IN A HIGH-CRIME AREA SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASED RISK OF POLITICAL OR CRIMINAL ATTACKS ON OUR OFFICES AND PERSONNEL. ADDITIONALLY, IT WAS POINTED OUT CHARACTER OF CHANCERY AND OTHER PREMISES (E.G. MAIN CHANCERY ENTRANCE AND LARGE PLATE-GLASS WINDOWS ARE DIRECTLY ON SIDEWALK) MADE IMPOSSIBLE ANY SIGNIFICANT ENHANCEMENT OF MISSION SECURITY. FOR ALL OF THESE REASONS (PLUS EFFICIENCY AND "CLEAN SLATE" REQUIREMENTS) WE ARGUED NEED FOR NEW CHANCERY WHICH COULD HOUSE ALL ELEMENTS THIS MISSION IN A RELATIVELY CRIME-FREE AREA WITH BUILT-IN SECURITY PRECAUTIONS, E.G. SUFFICIENT DISTANCE BETWEEN BUILDING AND PUBLIC AREAS TO MINIMIZE POSSIBILITY OF ATTACKS ON BUILDING PROPER.

3. SINCE NOVEMBER CHARACTER OF THREAT HAS ALTERED SHARPLY AND NEGATIVELY. THE ANTI-U.S. CAMPAIGN DESCRIBED IN REFTTEL B CONTINUES TO INCREASE AND MANIFESTS ITSELF IN VARIOUS FORMS. ALLEGATIONS OF CIA ACTIVITY A LA CHILE ARE BEING CIRCULATED BY PAMPHLET AND WORD OF MOUTH BY PNP YOUTH ORGANIZATION, OTHER LEFTIST GROUPS, PNP GENERAL SECRETARY, AND EVEN BY SOME PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES IN GOJ. LATTER, FOR INSTANCE, PARTICIPATED IN LAST WEEK'S DEMONSTRATIONS AT IMF CONFERENCE SITE AND WERE PHOTOGRAPHED CARRYING ANTI-AMERICAN PLACARDS. PNP YOUTH STAGED JANUARY 7 ATTACK UPON CONSULATE

4. OUR BEST ESTIMATE IS THAT THIS CAMPAIGN WILL CONTINUE AND INDEED WILL EXPAND WITH FURTHER DEMONSTRATIONS A LIKELIHOOD IN THE NOT DISTANT FUTURE. IN SHORT, THIS MISSION IS FOR FIRST TIME THE TARGET OF ORGANIZED LEFTIST FORCES.

5. REFTELS (C) THROUGH (M) DESCRIBED THE INTERNECINE DOMESTIC WARFARE BETWEEN ARMED JLP AND PNP PARTISANS LAST WEEK IN AN AREA ROUGHLY ONE MILE FROM MAIN CHANCERY AND ONLY A FEW BLOCKS FROM OUR CONSULAR AND USIS OFFICES. WHILE THIS PARTICULAR VIOLENCE WAS NOT DIRECTED AT UNITED STATES, THE WORD IS NOW BEING CONFIDENTIAL

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SPREAD THAT IT WAS INSTIGATED BY JLP AND OTHER LOCAL "SINISTER FORCES IN COLLUSION WITH CIA IN ORDER "DESTABILIZE" SITUATION AND OVERTHROW MANLEY GOVERNMENT. GIVEN VIOLENT PROCLIVITIES OF VARIOUS LEFTIST GROUPS INVOLVED IN THE ESCALATING ANTI-U.S. CAMPAIGN (AND THEIR CLOSE LINKAGE TO THE ARMED PARTISANS OF LEFTIST GOVERNMENT MINISTERS, E. G. THE "GARRISON GANG"), WE ESTIMATE THERE IS NOW A HIGH RISK THAT (WITH OR WITHOUT HIGH-LEVEL AUTHORIZATION) OUR

MISSION PREMISES MAY BE SUBJECT TO VIOLENT ATTACK AT ANY TIME. THIS COULD TAKE THE FORM OF A HIT-AND-RUN FIREBOMBING OR SHOTGUNNING OF ANY OF THE THREE PREMISES FROM MOVING VEHICLES. EQUALLY, WE NOT ESTIMATE THAT OUR STAFF MAY BECOME (ALSO FOR FIRST TIME) TARGETS OF POLITICALLY INSPIRED ATTACKS (AS AGAINST PRESENT RANDOM CRIMINAL THREAT) -- ESPECIALLY GIVEN ILL-DISCIPLINED AND VOLATILE CHARACTER KINGSTON'S ARMED POLITICAL GANGS.

6. IN LIGHT ABOVE CIRCUMSTANCES I MUST GIVE NEW EMPHASIS TO URGANCY OF ACQUISITION OF A NEW CHANCERY WHICH (A) CAN PROVIDE AT LEAST A MINIMUM OF SECURITY AGAINST ATTACK BY ANY OF THE ELEMENTS DESCRIBED ABOVE; AND (B) WOULD BE IN AN AREA OF KINGSTON WHERE RISKS INHERENT TO DAILY TRAVEL THROUGH SOME OF KINGSTON'S MOST VIOLENCE-PRONE AREAS WOULD BE SHARPLY REDUCED.

7. WE HAVE LOCATED A POTENTIAL NEW CHANCERY WHICH SATISFIES ALL SUCH CONDITIONS AND IS IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE FOR SHORT-TERM LEASE; WE BELIEVE A LEASE/OPTION-TO-PURCHASE ARRANGEMENT CAN BE NEGOTIATED WHICH WOULD COST LITTLE MORE THAN ALL DISPARATE PRESENT PREMISES. A DETAILED PROPOSAL ON THIS ACQUISITION IS BEING POUCHED TO ARA/MANAGEMENT (WITH COPIES TO YOU) IN A FEW DAYS. I HOPE VERYMUCH THAT YOU CAN GIVE US ALL POSSIBLE SUPPORT IN MOVING AHEAD ON WHAT APPEARS TO BE A UNIQUE AND MOST TIMELY OPPORTUNITY. GERARD

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